

MRS. JESSIE LEE COLEMAN HOPKINS began her earthly journey on Sunday, January 27, 1924, in Schley County, Georgia. She was the eighth of nine children born to the late Gus Coleman and the late Roseanna Killebrew Coleman. She is preceded in death by each of her siblings.

“Jessie Lee,” as she was lovingly called, attended the Marietta School, a Rosenwald School for African Americans, on New Era Road in Schley County, Georgia.

At a very early age, Jessie Lee Coleman married and was devoted to her husband, Charles Morris Hopkins, III, until his death on March 22, 2002. After a brief stay in Youngstown, Ohio during the early days of the marriage, they returned to Sumter County, Georgia. The union lasted for over 62 years and produced four children: Charles L. Hopkins, IV, Anna Hopkins Davis, William A. Hopkins and Emma Hopkins Peasant. Her family circle was blessed and grew with the addition of wonderful in-laws, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. Today, the immediate family includes 49 members comprising of 18 grandchildren and 31 great grandchildren; Charles Lewis Hopkins and his children: Stephanie Hopkins (Roderick) Holliday, Leticelia Hopkins (Gene) Godfrey, and Charles Morris (Ann Marie) Hopkins; Charles Hopkins, IV has four grandchildren; Anna Hopkins Davis and her children: Carlton R. Bryant (predeceased), Christopher R. (Lynn) Bryant, Erika Davis (Frederick) Woodall, Allison Davis (James) Neely and Jordan Davis (Bryan) Lawson. Anna’s children produced four grandchildren; William A. (Emmalyn) Hopkins has 18 grandchildren produced from his children consisting of Andre Hopkins, Sophia Muldrow, Sabrina Barnes, Ellen Nicole Hopkins (Curley) Henry, Ryan Hopkins, Christopher Hopkins and Leslee Hopkins. Her youngest child is Emma Hopkins Peasant and her children produced five grandchildren. Emma’s children are George (La Vivian) Peasant, III, Patrick (DeNedra) Peasant and Jessica Peasant (Nkosinathi) Mncube.

Mrs. Hopkins dedicated her life to Christianity and God and believed in His Son, Jesus Christ. She was a faithful member of Allen Chapel A.M.E. Church where she proudly enjoyed service from her pew in the newly constructed building, and served as a member of the Women’s Missionary Society until she could no longer serve. She insisted on her family being a Christian one and the walls of Allen Chapel fulfilled that promise to God by providing a sanctuary for religious training, baptisms, and weddings. She once stated, “I was born an AME and I will die an AME.” Mrs. Hopkins was also a life-long member of the Eastern Stars. She joined the Order of the Eastern Stars, Lodge #26, Americus, Georgia on February 5, 1953. She had 70 years of service. Mrs. Hopkins and her husband also provided refuge for members of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee during the Civil Rights Movement in Americus, GA.

Mrs. Hopkins was a host and adventurer. During the summer of 1988, she brought together members of the Gus and Roseanna Coleman Family in fulfillment of a promise to her late father. Christmas was spent at Grandmother's home with joyful family, loads of gifts, and delicious foods. Her home was host to grandchildren during school summer vacation. She loved to travel and visit family and friends. Her travels included a cross country trip from Irmo, South Carolina to Los Angeles, California; an East Coast States trip from South Florida to Boston, Massachusetts; and a mid-west trip from Georgia to Canton, Michigan.

Mrs. Hopkins was not just a homebody; she was a dreamer and doer. As such, she ventured into entrepreneurship with her husband and they opened a drive-up fast food business, Ben's Drive-In, near the corner of Reddick and Carter Streets. The business thrived. She and her husband then relocated to the corner of Patterson and Jackson Streets under the name of Hopkins Cafe. Again, she was blessed and moved beyond fast food and entered business as Hopkins Grocery and Market at 122 West Lester Street. This business continued until the death of her loving husband.

Mother and Grandmother Hopkins lived a fruitful and long life of 99+ years. Her God and Savior welcomed her home on the early morning of Monday, October 16, 2023, at 5:45 a.m. Her family is sad but very appreciative of the many years she had shown love, compassion, and devotion to them. She had a beautiful journey.